

Commission to review Administrative Laws

**2141. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high-level commission set up by Government to review administrative laws and recommend, if any, of those need to be replaced or amended says that Licence Raj may be slowly receding but Inspector Raj is thriving and breeding massive corruptions as reported in the Press recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) A Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up by the Government on 8 May, 1998 with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To undertake an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/Departments for the review of administrative laws, regulations and procedures administered by them, and the follow-up steps thereafter, for repeal and amendment.
- (ii) To identify, in consultation with Ministries/Departments and client groups, proposals for amendments to existing laws, regulations and procedures, where these are in the nature of law common to more than one Department, or where they have a bearing on the effective working of more than one Ministry/Department and State Governments, or where a collectivity of laws impact on the performance of an economic or social sector, or where they have a bearing on industry and trade.

- (iii) To examine, in the case of selected areas like environment, industry, trade and commerce, housing and real estate, specific changes in existing rules and procedures so as to make them objective, transparent and predictable.
- (iv) To make, on the basis of this exercise, recommendations for repeal/amendments of laws, regulations and procedures, legislative process, etc.

The Commission submitted its report on 30 September, 1998.

The Commission, *inter-alia*, has mentioned in their report that the 'Licence Raj' may have been diluted because of recent industrial policies, but 'Inspector Raj' is still thriving. The frequency of inspections varies across States, depending on the number of laws and inspections enforced by the State Governments.

The Commission recommended that the persistence of the 'Inspector Raj' calls for review of the rationale for inspections and documentation under different Central and State Departments, the laws and practices governing inspections, and the need for the adoption of more efficient and transparent surveillance and audit mechanisms. The Commission noted the efforts made by a number of States to rationalise, consolidate, simplify and reduce forms and returns, to introduce single forms with multiple columns for different agencies, and reduce the requirements for the submission of documentation. These need to be sustained and enlarged.